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The Cosmopolitan's "New" Bar

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In the Cosmopolitan Chronicle article *The Cosmo Bar*, (dated 09/26/08), Victor Walsh gives us an introduction to the room, and possible furnishings. No one at this time knows what happened to Seeley's bar, but given the multiple uses of the building, that is not surprising. Perhaps it was removed during the time the building was used as the Old Mission Olive Works, or when it was used as a girls school. In any event, a "new" bar had to be found.

With the assistance of historical consultant Bruce Coons, one has been located and purchased. It is very similar to the one Victor describes in his article, i.e., a front-back bar with recessed panels, a brass rail, and three wood bordered mirror insets. This style of bar was used throughout a long period in the west, so is an excellent match for our bar room. This "new" bar actually dates from at least the 1880s,

and is reportedly from Silver City, Idaho.

Silver City, like Bodie SHP, is a "ghost town." Silver City now has a year-round population of 2. However between the 1860s when it was founded, and for the following several decades, it was a thriving mining town with a population of around 2,500 with 75 businesses, and 300 homes.

Naturally we wanted to know exactly where in Silver City our bar originated. In an "historical, descriptive and commercial directory of Owyhee County Idaho...1897" specifically Silver City, 8 saloons were listed: Barkle Bros Corner Saloon, the War Eagle Saloon and Hotel, (named after nearby War Eagle mountain), McCabe and Murphy Saloon, J.M. Brunzell Saloon, Rock & Jacobs Saloon, McMahon & Butler Saloon, Idaho Hotel which is still there, and the Miller and Co Saloon which burned down in 1907. So we are down to 6 possibilities.

I contacted the Idaho Public

Archives and Research Library for some assistance. Elizabeth Falk, a Library Assistant, took on the task and after a month or so, thought she was getting close. But unfortunately, she ran into a "dead-end." She went through the entire archives and photo collection but could only find a picture and handwritten notes of the bar in the still existing Idaho Hotel. She then "turned to newspaper articles covering Silver City and discovered



in the 1960s and 70s many of the homes and businesses in the town were pillaged by tourists visiting in the summer season."

So for the time being, we are at an impasse in this endeavor. But early next year, Seeley's (replacement) bar will once again be open for business. Standing room only.

